

ITALIAN JOURNEYS

4400 Cold Springs Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

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Bay of Naples: For One

Note: I recommend you bring a couple of guidebooks. I like the colorful Eyewitness series published by Dorling Kindersley. They have a book on Rome and another on Naples, which includes Capri.

Day 1

Arrive Naples:

Your driver will meet you outside the baggage claim area (where the drivers are waiting) and take you to the Hotel Vesuvio on Naples' waterfront.

You have a single room with a sea view.

Anna, your guide, will meet you at your hotel at 4:30 for an exploration of the city center. Anna offered to stay in town and join you for dinner, which I thought was very considerate. She can take you some place fun, a pizzeria or something more elaborate if that interests you. There is great food in Naples. And I do agree with her that you might feel uncomfortable dining on your own. If she does join you, please offer to pay for her dinner. Also, I should add, you will enjoy her company and she has a wealth of information to share about Italy and Naples. You could, of course, eat in your hotel, but I never recommend this. Hotels are for tourists and conventions. Typically, they do not serve good local food.

****When touring with Anna, do not wear fancy jewelry or an expensive watch.**

Leave whatever you do not need—passport, extra credit cards, lots of cash-- in the safe in your hotel room.**

Day 2

Full day of sightseeing with Anna, and a car and driver. You can discuss with Anna both your start time and your itinerary, but here is a rough outline: Herculaneum (the other city destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius), the Villa Oplontis—also covered by ash and lava, and the seaside town of Sorrento. At the end of the day, Anna will see you off on a hydrofoil for Capri.

****At some point in your touring with Anna, you will want to buy your train ticket from Naples to Rome for July 20. Anna knows the ropes. I suggest a morning train so you can see some of Rome.****

On Capri, you are staying at the Hotel Flora. When you arrive in Capri, there will be baggage handlers. Give them your bags and tell them you are staying at the Hotel Flora. They are trustworthy, and a small luggage handling fee will be added to your hotel bill. Then, take the cable car from the Marina Grande up to the main piazza of Capri. (You cannot get to your hotel by car.) From the top of the cable car, with your back to the sea, turn left to get to the main piazzetta. From there, look for signs to your hotel.

I will attach my notes on what to see and do on Capri.

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Days 3 and 4

Enjoy yourself!

Day 5

You will want to confer with the hotel about when to depart. They know the boat schedules and how to coordinate with the trains. But, in essence, you want to take a hydrofoil to Naples and from there a taxi to the train station. Just to make life complicated, there are two quays in Naples where the boats from Capri dock, the smaller Mergellina port and Beverello, the main port. There are also two train stations. The ideal scenario would be to get a hydrofoil to Mergellina and a train from the Mergellina train station. Make sure you go over this with the people at your hotel reception.

Once you arrive at Rome's train station, proceed to the taxi rank. Do not accept rides from people who might approach you in the station. You are staying at the Grand Hotel de la Minerve in Piazza della Minerva.

Your hotel is in the heart of Rome's historic center. You should hike around to the various piazzas: Piazza del Pantheon—also check out the Pantheon itself, one of the most significant buildings in the world, Piazza Navona, and Campo Dei Fiori, all within a stone's throw.

You are also a pleasant walk from the Roman Forum, Capitoline Hill and Colosseum. It is also fun to walk across the Tiber to explore the little streets of Trastevere as well as the main Piazza of Santa Maria in Trastevere. (The church is also nice!)

This is a Monday, which means most museums will be closed. The Vatican museums, however, are open on Monday. I suggest getting there at about one in the afternoon, when most tourists are having lunch. Re dinner in Rome: I like San'Eustachio, which is very near your hotel. Roman Jewish cuisine, which is not at all like American Jewish. Or, if you want something to look at, take a café table in one of the piazzas.

Day 6

Ask the hotel to advise when you should leave the hotel to reach the airport two hours ahead of your flight. And ask them to call you a taxi.

For further details:
Italian Journeys
4400 Cold Springs Road
Winston Salem, NC 27106
336-794-1849
www.italianjourneys.net